DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Are there occasions when such acts have taken place in other parts of the State?

THE HON. SRI N. NALLASENAPATHI SARKARAI MANRADIAR : In one or two places.

Government advertisements

* 139 *Q*.—SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB : Will the Hon. the Minister for Information be pleased to state—

(*a*) the criteria for giving Government advertisements to newspapers; and

(*b*) the names of papers to which Government advertisements were given during 1961–62?

THE HON. SRI G. BOOVARAGHAN : (*a*) The criteria governing the release of the Government advertisements to newspapers are as follows :—

(i) the circulation figures of the newspapers;

(ii) their tone and contents; and

(iii) the area or class of readers to whom a particular advertisement is directed.

(*b*) A list [a] is placed on the table of the House.

SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB : Sir, on the basis of circulation, will the Government consider the question of giving advertisements to opposition party papers, particularly, Nam Nadu, Murasoli, Dina Thanthi, Urimaikural, Marumalarchi, and Mani Vilakku?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member cannot recommend particular papers.

Questions are over.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

III.—ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(1) MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have received a message from the Governor of Madras recommending to the Madras Legislative Council the consideration of the Madras Appropriation Bill, 1062.

(2) MESSAGES FROM THE ASSEMBLY

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have also received messages from the Hon. Speaker, Madras Legislative Assembly, transmitting copies of the following Bills as passed by the Assembly and signed by

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 485.

him for the recommendation of the Council and certifying that the Bills are Money Bills within the meaning of Article 199 of the Constitution of India :—

(1) The Madras Appropriation Bill, 1962 (L.A. Bill No. 14 of 1962).

(2) The Madras General Sales-Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1962 (L.A. Bill No. 6 of 1962).

(3) The Madras Agricultural Income-tax (Amendment) Bill, 1962 (L.A. Bill No. 7 of 1962).

I have also received a message from the Hon. Speaker, Madras Legislative Assembly, transmitting a copy of the Madras City Municipal Corporation and District Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 1962 (L.A. Bill No. 11 of 1962), as passed by the Assembly, for the concurrence of the Council.

IV.—CALLING ATTENTION TO FAILURE TO POST DOCTORS TO FOUR PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES IN THE SOUTH ARCOT DISTRICT.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, with your permission, under rule 42 (1) of the Madras Legislative Council Rules, I wish to call the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Health to a matter of urgent public importance namely, the failure of Government to post doctors to four primary health centres at Marungur, Valathy, Kachirapalayam and Elavanasur in South Arot District. These primary health centres were constructed at huge cost and opened with all the necessary equipment. These primary health centres were opened with a view to affording medical aid to the rural population. Large sums of money have been spent on building and equipment, and the people of that locality look forward to free medical aid. Though a year has elapsed, no doctors have been posted so far. Consequently, the local people are denied medical aid and have to go to long distances for the same. It is, therefore, necessary that immediate action should be taken to post doctors to these primary health centres.

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the four primary health centres referred to by the hon. Member are those at Marungur, Valathy, Kachirapalayam and Elavanasur in South Arcot district. I must mention in the first instance that there is a shortage of medical officers in the cadre of Assistant Surgeons in the State, and it is found difficult to fill up all the sanctioned posts. At present, about 85 posts of Assistant Surgeons in the various Government medical institutions in the State are lying vacant for want of officers. The position in respect of the four primary health centres is—

Primary Health Centre, Marungur.—The Assistant Surgeon who was working in the Primary Health Centre, Marungur, from 13th May 1961 left the station suddenly on 9th December 1961 without any intimation, deserting his post. A telegram was sent later to his address and in response to that, he agreed to join duty on 9th January 1962. But he did not, however, join duty at Marungur. Disciplinary action was thereupon instituted against